

HOUSE BILL 1714

By Warner

AN ACT relative to the Verify Our Tennessee Elections Act.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. This act is known and may be cited as the "Verify Our Tennessee Elections (VOTE) Act."

SECTION 2.

(a) Each county election commission, in collaboration with the secretary of state, shall conduct an investigation into the results of the 2020 general election results in this state. The investigation must focus on the results for president of the United States and for each United States congressional race in this state. In conducting the investigation, each county election commission shall perform:

- (1) A forensic audit of each ballot, including absentee ballots, available for review from the 2020 general election;
- (2) A complete canvassing of each ballot, including absentee ballots, for purposes of confirming the vote tallies for each race; and
- (3) A thorough review of the chain of custody for ballots, including absentee ballots, ballot boxes, and voting machines and equipment.

(b) For purposes of carrying out this act:

- (1) Each county election commission has broad authority to:
 - (A) Conduct the investigation in the manner most likely to yield accurate and reliable results, including the authority to examine witnesses and subpoena documents and records other than ballots relative to the

investigation that the commission reasonably believes will assist in carrying out the investigation; and

(B) Establish deadlines for purposes of producing ballots, documents, records, machines, equipment, and other information;

(2) Each election official shall fully cooperate with their respective county election commission and meet each deadline established by the commission for purposes of meeting the requirements of this section; and

(3) If an election official does not timely cooperate with their respective county election commission, the county election commission shall refer the matter to the appropriate district attorney general who shall seek a writ of mandamus in a court of competent jurisdiction ordering the official to comply with the request of the commission.

(c) Each county election commission shall report its findings to the secretary of state no later than June 1, 2022. Upon receipt of the findings, the secretary of state shall aggregate the county reports and compile a final report and submit the report to the ad hoc election integrity subcommittee created pursuant to subsection (d) no later than June 10, 2022.

(d)

(1) There is created an ad hoc election integrity subcommittee of the joint government operations committee of the house of representatives and the senate.

(2) The subcommittee must be composed of six (6) members from among the members of the joint government operations committee, three (3) members to be selected by the speaker of the senate and three (3) members to be selected by the speaker of the house of representatives. Each speaker shall

designate from among their members selected a co-chair to serve on the subcommittee.

(3) The joint government operations committee shall call a meeting of the ad hoc election integrity subcommittee as soon as practicable after submission of the final report of the secretary of state in accordance with subsection (c). After evaluating the final report of the secretary of state, the subcommittee shall submit its findings to the full body of the joint government operations committee no later than June 17, 2022. The joint government operations committee shall convene to review the final report of the secretary of state and the findings of the subcommittee no later than June 24, 2022.

(4) After the joint government operations committee convenes in accordance with subdivision (d)(3), the committee shall report its final findings to the governor, the speaker of the senate, and the speaker of the house of representatives no later than July 1, 2022.

SECTION 3. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.